

## **Tell the Truth** **Matthew 5:33-37**

Life runs on the rails of relationships.

Relationships depend upon trust.

Trust is built by living in the truth.

Jesus is the way the truth and the life.

John said that the word became flesh and dwelt among us / \ . . . full of grace a truth

Jesus said that you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

John 16:13 - The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth

Trust is built by truth.

The world tells you that there is no truth. Morality is only opinion.

Here again, as previously, what was said by the men of long ago was not incorrect. It was a fair summary of the letter of the law concerning the oath (Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2; and cf. Deut. 23:21). Only, from the words of Jesus it is very obvious that the ancients, and thus also the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day, misplaced the emphasis. As is clear from the context in every case, the divinely intended emphasis (note italics) was as follows:

*“You shall not swear by my name *falsely*”* (Lev. 19:12).

*“When a man makes a vow to Jehovah or swears an oath . . . *he shall not break his word*”* (Num. 30:2).

*“When you shall make a vow to Jehovah your God, *you shall not be slack to pay it*”* (Deut. 23:21).

Or, using the phraseology of the interpreters:

*“You shall not break your oath, but shall keep the oaths you have sworn to the Lord.”*

In each case the emphasis is on truthfulness: a person must be truthful when he solemnizes his promise with an oath. He must really mean it. He must also be faithful in keeping the oath; that is, he must carry out his promise. Even in connection with the promises which God himself confirmed with an oath it is truthfulness that is stressed, “Jehovah has sworn to David in truth; he will not turn from it” (Ps. 132:11). And in connection with “the two immutable things” (the promise and the oath) from which believers derive strong encouragement (Heb. 6:18) it is emphasized that “it is impossible for God to lie.”

Now this emphasis on truthfulness “in the heart” or<sup>1</sup>

### **1. Your Words Matter**

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<sup>1</sup> Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953–2001). *Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew* (Vol. 9, pp. 306–307). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

the reveal your

**Proverbs 6:16-19: “These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, <sup>19</sup> A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”**

we lie because we have a values problem - we do not value the truth

We don't value our own character

**Lies are motivated by the desire**

**\*to protect a flawed respect** - Saul asked Samuel to honor him in front of the people

Flattery - wants you to think that they think highly of you so that you can fulfill their agenda

Falsehood - want you to think good of them

**\*to promote a false reality** (want people to think highly of you Ananias and Saphirra);

**\*to profane a faithful reputation** - Potifer's wife; Absalom

Lies don't die

Lies tend to fly while the truth walks

we lie because we don't love the truth

integrity more than others

**Proverbs 10:19: “In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.”**

**Proverbs 17:17: “He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.”**

**Proverbs 29:20: “Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.”**

If they ask you once, then they wanted to know your thoughts, if they ask you twice they wanted you to know their thoughts

Speak once - let your yea be yea and your nay be nay - definitive and concise

“Some people have something to say and some people have to say something”  
name dropper; a one upper;

that is all I am going to say about it

## 2. Your words are influenced

you learn what is in your heart from what comes from your mouth:  
they reveal your heart

**Matthew 12:34: “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”**

**Matthew 15:18: “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.**

Satan seeks to influence words

**John 8:44-45: “Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”**

Jesus told Peter: get behind me Satan

## 3. Your words should stand alone

what motivates you to add something to your words

-your words by themselves have little meaning

trust is built slowly and destroyed quickly

This is not an accurate quotation of any one law of Moses. At the same time, it is a not inaccurate summary of several Old Testament precepts which require people who make vows to keep them. And the vows in question are, strictly speaking, ‘oaths’ in which the speaker calls upon God to witness his vow and to punish him if he breaks it. Moses often seems to have emphasized the evil of false swearing and the duty of performing to the Lord one’s oaths. Here are a few examples:

‘You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain’ (Ex. 20:7, the third commandment).

‘You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God’ (Lv 19:12).

‘When a man vows a vow to the Lord, ... he shall not break his word’ (Nu. 30:2).

‘When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not be slack to pay it’ (Dt. 23:21).

Even a superficial reading of these commandments indicates plainly their intention. They

prohibit false swearing or perjury, that is, making a vow and then breaking it.<sup>2</sup>

They argued that what the law was really prohibiting was not taking the name of the Lord *in vain*, but taking *the name of the Lord* in vain. ‘False swearing’, they concluded, meant profanity (a profane use of the divine name), not perjury (a dishonest pledging of one’s word). So they developed elaborate rules for the taking of vows. They listed which formulae were permissible, and they added that only those formulae which included the divine name made the vow binding. One need not be so particular, they said, about keeping vows in which the divine name had not been used.

Jesus expressed his contempt for this kind of sophistry in one of the ‘woes’ against the Pharisees (‘blind guides’ he called them) which Matthew records later (23:16–22):

*Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If any one swears by the temple, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’<sup>3</sup>*

1) past misunderstandings can tempt you

2) scar tissue from other leaders

- people do not trust because they are burned and bitter

3) lack of character

I have team members without trust

God almost never has you inherit a team

You have to remove those that you can not trust

“Stewards have to be found faithful.”

Is Jesus Lord of your life

only way the law can be satisfied

only way you can be made righteous

only way to have eternal life

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<sup>2</sup> Stott, J. R. W., & Stott, J. R. W. (1985). *The message of the Sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7): Christian counter-culture* (pp. 99–100). Leicester; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

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